

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SSO-00 IO-10 AID-05 DPW-01 /067 W

----- 055211

R 061145Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2577

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS SAIGON 01468

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS/NCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: GVN-HOA HAO CONFLICT

REF: STATE 024908

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT RELEASED BY GVN AT FEB 6 PRESS
CONFERENCE PROVIDING GVN POSITION ON DISBANDING OF HOA HAO
CIVIL GUARD (BAO AN):

2. BEGIN TEXT: IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN
A NUMBER OF DECISIONS AIMING AT STABILIZING AND CONSOLIDATING
THE LOCAL SECURITY AND ORDER. AMONG THESE DECISIONS WERE 2
IMPORTANT ONES:

- THE DISBANDING OF THE HOA HAO CIVIL GUARD
- THE ARREST OF A NUMBER OF COMMUNIST AGENTS INFILTRATING
THE PRESS AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF LICENSES OF FIVE

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INVOLVED NEWSPAPERS. (TEXT SEPTTEL.)

THE GOV'T WOULD LIKE TO STATE CLEARLY THE REASONS WHICH HAVE
PROMPTED IT TO TAKE THE ABOVE TWO NECESSARY MEASURES:

I. THE DISBANDING OF THE HOA HAO CIVIL GUARD

A. THE BAN ON AN ILLEGAL ARMED FORCE DOES NOT PRESENT A THREAT
TO THE PURE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE HOA HAO BUDDHIST SECT.
THUS, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF RELIGIOUS OPPRESSIONS.

B. THIS IS AN URGENT AND NECESSARY ACTION THAT THE GOV'T IS
FORCED TO TAKE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF
THE CITIZENS, TO ENFORCE THE NATIONAL LAW AND TO AVOID THE
DISORDER CAUSED BY THE EXISTENCE OF AN ARMY WITHIN AN ARMY.
IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT:

1/ THE GOV'T HAS BEEN VERY PATIENT AND SHOWN ITS UTMOST
GOOD WILL, JUST AS IT HAS YIELDED TO THE UTMOST IN THIS MATTER.

- THE GOV'T HAS TRIED TO SETTLE THE AFFAIR AMICABLY. FOR
INSTANCE, THE PRES OF THE REPUBLIC HIMSELF WENT TO CAN THO TO
SETTLE IT, AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, OTHER DELEGATIONS WERE
SENT TO THE SPOT TO MAKE CONTACT OR NEGOTIATE WITH THE
RESPECTIVE AUTHORITIES:

- ON APRIL 19, 1974, THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND THE
ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WENT TO TAY AN PAGODA TO
CONTACT THE HOA HAO BUDDHIST AUTHORITIES:

- ON MAY 15, 1974, THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND THE
ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WHEN CONTACTING THE
HOA HAO BUDDHIST DELEGATION AT CAN THO; ADVIBIPNBLY
ANNOUNCED THE DECISION OF THE GOV'T NOT TO ACCEPT THE EXISTANCE
OF THE HOA HAO CIVIL GUARD.

WHEN THE TIME CAME TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES, THE GOV'T
STILL REMAINED MODERATE AND CLEMENT BY:

- SETTING A DEADLINE TIME UP TO FEB 15, 1975 TO ALLOW
DRAFT EVADERS AND DESERTERS TO REPORT THEMSELVES IN AND
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TO CARRY OUT THEIR MILITARY OBLIGATIONS.

- PERMITTING THEM TO SURRENDER ILLEGAL FIREARMS AND WAR
MATERIALS STILL IN THEIR POSSESSION.

- AVOIDING BLOODSHED

- AVOIDING TOUCHING THE RELIGIOUS INSTALLATIONS AND PLACES

OF WORSHIP.

2/ NONETHELESS, IN SPITE OF THE GOV'T'S REJECTION OF THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE CIVIL GUARD, THIS ORGANIZATION: HAS CONTINUED TO EXPAND ITS FORCE FROM PROVINCIAL TO VILLAGE AND HAMLET LEVELS. THEY HAVE ENCOURAGED AND ENTICED OUR SOLDIERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SELFDEFENSE FORCES TO DESERT, BRINGING WITH THEM THEIR WEAPONS.

- THEY HAVE PROVIDED COVER FOR THE DESERTERS, ENGAGED DRAFT EVADERS, ACCEPTED AND STOCKED ILLEGAL FIREARMS.

- THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES KEPT INCREASING.

- THEIR ARMED PRIVATE GUARDS HAVE INTERFERED WITH THE GOV'T SEARCH OPERATIONS AGAINST DRAFT EVADERS AND DESERTERS.

- THEY HAVE SURROUNDED OR INFILTRATED OUR MILITARY POST AND GOV'T INSTALLATIONS, COMPELLING OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS TO FREE DETAINED DRAFT EVADERS AND DESERTERS BY AT TIME HOLDING THEM AS HOSTAGES.

- THEY HAVE COLLECTED ILLEGAL MONEY TO BUILD UP FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF DESERTERS AND DRAFT EVADERS.

- THEY HAVE FAILED TO SHOW THEIR SINCERITY AND GOOD WILL TO SETTLE THE AFFAIR IN THE DIRECTION OF MODERATION AND FAILED TO DECLARE THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ILLEGAL FIREARMS STILL IN THEIR POSSESSION, THUS AVOIDING HANDING THEM IN AS PLEDGED. THEY HAVE DECLARED AND SUBMITTED THEIR FIREARMS TWICE:

- THE FIRST TIME ON JUNE 15, 1974 WITH 5 RIFLES.

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- THE SECOND TIME ON JULY 2, 1974 WITH 28 RIFLES. HOWEVER, AFTER THE BAN OF HOA HAO CIVIL GUARD THE GOV'T SEIZED:

-149 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS

- 5 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS

-315,405 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION

- 517 ASSORTED PIECES OF WAR MATERIAL

- 6 JEEPS AND 7 MILITARY RADIO SETS.

THEIR VIOLATION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY BECAME EVEN MORE SERIOUS. ON FEBRUARY 2, 1975, AFTER THE DISBANDING ORDER

HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED, THE CIVIL GUARD IN AN GIANG PROVINCE HAD
SEIZED A NUMBER OF WEAPONS FROM THE LOCAL SELF-DEFENSE CORPS.

THE ABOVE MENTIONED FACTS HAVE CLEARLY PROVED THAT THE
CIVIL GUARD WERE AN ILLEGAL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD CAUSED
CONFUSION AND DISORDER AGAINST PUBLIC SECURITY, ANDTHUS HAVE
ENDANGERED THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF OUR CITIZENS.

END TEXT.

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